

Two years in the making, Aurora adopts downtown plan

 chicagotribune.com/suburbs/aurora-beacon-news/news/ct-abn-aurora-downtown-st-1119-20171117-story.html

After more than two years, the Aurora City Council has adopted an update to the downtown master plan.

An upgrade of the downtown portion of the 2005 Seize the Future plan, Stephane Phifer, of Aurora's planning department, said the plan actually goes beyond the original plan, building on successes that have already taken place in the past 12 years.

The plan has been through several public hearings and gained input from several online survey and survey locations throughout the city for almost two years.

The plan contains a number of recommendations. Many of them deal with aesthetic improvements and identifying gateways to and from downtown. There is one recommendation that does say the city should "develop stronger visual and physical links to the riverfront."

As the plan came through the City Council process, aldermen added some things to make sure the plan stressed the importance of the Fox River through downtown, the Riverwalk and its potential for economic development.

The plan includes recommendations such as promoting and cultivating the creative, cultural identity of downtown and identifying and activating vacant spaces.

On the same night as the plan was ratified by the council, aldermen also recognized the Paramount Theatre for its artistic success, agreed to a redevelopment plan to turn a city-owned building on Broadway into a live music venue, and passed a slight financing change to the Aurora Arts Centre project downtown.

Lindsay Bayley, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning project manager, has said the group will continue to work with the city up to two years after adoption of the revised plan to help with its implementation.

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